

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /089 W  
-----061749Z 086629 /47

R 061726Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10165

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR FT FR OAU  
SUBJ: QUAI REACTION TO ACCRA MEETING ON DJIBOUTI  
  
REF: ACCRA 2524 (NOTAL)

1. DIFFERING FROM REFTEL'S GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCRA CONFERENCE ON DJIBOUTI, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA CLAUDE HAREL TOLD US APRIL 5 THAT THE FRENCH ARE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT THE OUTCOME. GHANA, THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE OAU DJIBOUTI COMMISSION AND THE OAU SECRETARIAT SHOWED MUCH GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FRENCH POSITION THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED, AND, RATHER THAN CRITICIZING FRENCH PRE-INDEPENDENCE PLANS, TRIED TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON POST-INDEPENDENCE PROBLEMS. THEY WORKED HARD TO BRING THE FTAI FACTIONS TOGETHER, HOPING  
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THEREBY TO AVOID ANOTHER OAU FAILURE, AND FORCING THE DJIBOUTIANS TO COMPROMISE SOMEWHAT IN ORDER NOT TO OFFEND THE OAU.

2. HAREL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ALL FTAI GROUPS WERE PRESENT (EXCEPT ALI AREF HIMSELF) AND THAT A COMMON PLATFORM, EVEN THOUGH AMBIGUOUS, CONTRADICTORY

AND REPLETE WITH MENTAL RESERVATIONS, HAD BEEN AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE. THE LPAI TRIED TO KEEP THE PARIS ROUNDTABLE AGREEMENTS (PARIS 8880) IN TACT, HE SAID, AND THE COMMON PLATFORM (THE FINAL TEXT OF WHICH THE QUAJ IS NOT CERTAIN) REFLECTS THAT EFFORT.

3. THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, HAREL CONTINUED, WAS THAT OF ELECTIONS. THE AFAR GROUPS WANT TO HOLD THEM AFTER THE MAY 8 REFERENDUM, AFTER INDEPENDENCE, OR, PREFERABLY, NOT AT ALL, BUT APPARENTLY DID ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTIONS, IF NOT THEIR TIMING, WHICH IS NOT STATED PRECISELY IN THE PLATFORM. THE LPAI INSISTS ON MAY 8 ELECTIONS.

4. THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE SINGLE LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ASSEMBLY (WHICH, IN THEORY, ARE TO BE ROUGHLY HALF AFAR AND HALF ISSA) IS BEHIND THE CONFLICT OVER ELECTIONS. THE AFAR GROUPS WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROPOSE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES, WHEREAS THE LPAI, AS THE TERRITORY'S PREDOMINANT PARTY, WISHES TO SELECT EVEN THE AFAR CANDIDATES, OR, AT A MINIMUM, TO HAVE VETO POWER OVER AFAR GROUP NOMINATIONS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS CONFLICT WILL BE RESOLVED OVER THE NEXT MONTH BUT GIVEN THE LPAI'S DETERMINATION, HAREL THOUGHT THE

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /089 W  
-----061747Z 086725 /47

R 061726Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10165

ELECTIONS PROBABLY WOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED MAY 8,  
ALTHOUGH AT THIS POINT, THE GOF COULD NOT CARE LESS.

5. THE PLATFORM'S CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF  
FRENCH TROOPS FROM DJIBOUTI, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE  
AFAR GROUPS AND FINALLY SUBSCRIBED TO BY THE OTHERS, DID  
NOT SEEM TO BOTHER HAREL. HE SAID THAT THE DEFINITION  
OF "IMMEDIATE" WAS IMPRECISE AND THAT IT COULD BE  
CONSTRUED AS MEANING THAT ONCE INDEPENDENCE WAS GRANTED,  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEW STATE COULD MAKE WHATEVER  
MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS IT WANTED WITH THE FRENCH,  
IMPLYING THAT THIS WAS HOW THE "AMBIGUOUS" PLATFORM  
WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE LPAI. HE ALSO SAID THAT  
THE AFARS EVENTUALLY SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT A FRENCH  
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MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD BE THE BEST MEANS TO PROVIDE FOR  
THEIR OWN SECURITY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

6. IN RESUME, HAREL NOTED FRENCH RELIEF OVER THE  
SURFACE RAPPROCHEMENT AT ACCRA, BUT THAT THE OLD QUARRELS  
AMONG FTAI FACTIONS ALREADY WERE REAPPEARING. HE ADDED  
THAT OAU, ARAB LEAGUE AND UN OBSERVERS HAD BEEN INVITED  
FOR THE REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS, CREATING A DIFFICULT  
ACCOMMODATIONS PROBLEM FOR THE FRENCH.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009